CENTRAL OHIO NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

November meeting

When: 7 p.m., Nov. 18, 2009
Where: Oakstone Academy
939 S. State St., Westerville
Speaker: John Gillilan
Topic: Mercury dimes

October presentation

Chinese counterfeiters are using scrapped U.S. Mint presses and steel from retired U.S. coinage dies to make convincing counterfeits, Steve Roach, associated editor of Coin World, reported.

Some of the fakes are even placed in fake PCGs holders. Completing the package are phony CAC stickers which, he said, sell for $1 each. Roach and Tony Cass displayed several counterfeits, including a dog of a 1909-S-VDB cent, a passable large cent and an 1883 Hawaii half dollar.

Tony said collectors are "a little nervous, a litte scared. A lot of people are being taken in by it."

Steve said fakes range from crappy base-metal fakes (Level I) that wouldn't fool anyone to high-quality fakes (Level V) that "are good enough to pass 99% of the time." Level I fakes sell for just a few cents each. Level V pieces, though, can sell for hundreds, even thousands of dollars.

Convincing counterfeits tend to enter the collectors market "salted in" with good coins when dealers buy quantities of coins or collections. Bad coins are "detectable with a loop and a lot of time," but get through when coins are give only a cursory examination, Steve said.

In general, he said, copper counterfeits have color or edge problems and silver ones lack proper lustre.

No one appears to be faking gold, probably because of the cost of metal. Nickel "is the problem." Steve said.

A double-struck shield nickel that Steve brought to the meeting looked spot on. He said, "They really like doing errors."

Hawaii halves are especially a problem. Most collectors have never really examined one so they don't know the coin's diagnostics or even general characteristics. "Most of these coming though coin shows are going to be fakes," Steve said.

The edge on early large cent fakes gives them away. The fakes have flat edges and will stand on end. The edges of real coins have imperfections that keep them from standing up, he said.

"They keep getting better and better. If you tell them what's wrong, they'll fix it," Steve said.

He said the Chinese government doesn't care about counterfeiting of anything but post Chinese revolution coins. As far as the U.S government is concerned, he said, collectors are pretty much on their own.

Tony will give Part II of the talk in Feburary when he discusses more conventional counterfeits.

Christmas banquet

Date: Dec. 16
Where: Briarwood, 1421 Davidson Dr., Reynoldsburg
Details: TBA
Directions: I-270 to State Route 40 (Main Street) East. Proceed east approximately two miles to a right turn at Davidson Drive (Traffic light number 7), first building on right immediately behind the U.S. Post Office (the Post Office is directly across from City Hall).

Although it is not a large facility (about the size of a modest two story house), it is the only building on that side of the street, so not hard to find.

-- Dave Percy

Donation thought

Central States offers member clubs, such as CONA, a great deal and a way to possibly attract YNs who go to area schools

Ray Lockwood, Central States education director, reports:

Your club can donate up to $600 worth of numismatic library books and/or publications to local libraries and schools for only $100! Your club must purchase and donate $100 worth of books/newspapers and provide documentation of the purchase and donation. Then Central States 1) will either purchase an additional $500 worth of books/publications for your club to donate, OR 2) your club can spend up to $500 and be reimbursed by Central States. The choice is yours! This is a great way to spread numismatic education to a wide audience in your communities. A list of possible book purchases with wholesale prices is available just for the asking. Call me at 765-664-6520 or email: sunrayofmarion@aolcom

50/50 jackpot

The jackpot rolls over. No one won the October jackpot of $41

Quiz

My quiz for November is "A Veritable Cornucopia of Jumbled Topics." -- Jeff Cranston

Steve Barnett won last month's quiz.

Dan's show

When: Nov. 15, Dec. 20
Where: Makoy Center, 5462 Center, Hilliard

Auction

Lots: Send January lots to Steve Barnett - sbarnet5@columbus.rr.com - by Jan. 11

ANA members

Could you ask members to send us there ANA membership numbers or bring them to the monthly meeting so we can get our club membership at a reduced rate? -- Jeff Cranston

Raffle

The November raffle will have 2 lots: Original 1958 proof set and 1902-O MS-64 Morgan Dollar. There will be two draws, first winner gets choice. This is the last raffle of the year, so buy a few extra tickets!

Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5

Thank you all for supporting the raffle this year. It has been a success for the club. -- Gary

Michael Motto won the October Raffle, taking home a choice NGC MS-63 1866 3-Cent nickel.

Speakers

Dec. -- Christmas party
Jan. -- TBA
Feb. -- Tony Cass, Counterfeits II

(I think I'm missing one scheduled speaker. If you agreed to give a talk next year, but aren't listed here, please let me know.)

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